

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: September 22, 2014
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *CCM Convention* – The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is holding its annual convention at the Hartford Convention Center on October 21, 2014. The convention will feature a forum with gubernatorial candidates Dannel Malloy and Tom Foley, as well as a variety of seminars for municipal officials. Mayor Paterson and Deputy Mayor Shapiro do plan to attend; please let me know this evening if any other council members wish to accompany us.
- *Quarterly Reports* – We posted the quarterly reports on the Town's website this afternoon; in order to provide the Council with more time to review the reports we will list the item on the October 14, 2014 agenda.
- *South Eagleville Road Bus Shelter* – Staff expects the new bus shelter for South Eagleville Road to be delivered the week of October 27th; we will install the shelter shortly after receipt.

Departmental Reports

- *Resident Trooper's Office, reported grenade incident* – This past Saturday, you may have received an alert or witnessed our Resident Troopers closing off a section of South Eagleville Road. Troop C had received a call from a man who had found two WWII era grenades while cleaning his garage and wanted to properly dispose of them. When he initially made the call to the police, the man thought he was located at our Resident Trooper's Office here at the Beck Municipal Building and then realized he was at the Town Hall in Chaplin. The State Police Emergency Services Unit responded to Chaplin and properly disposed of the grenades.
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - New employees - Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:
 - Mark Holland has joined our staff as a temporary part-time housing inspector with Building and Housing Inspection. Mark is a recently retired Firefighter/EMT with UCONN's Fire Department where he gained experience conducting inspections.
 - Stephanie Huber has been hired for our Aquatics Recreation Supervisor position. Most recently Stephanie served as the Aquatics Director for the Farmington Valley YMCA of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. Stephanie has a bachelor's degree from Iona College.
 - ICMA Conference - I recently attended the International City Management Association's Annual Conference, held this year in Charlotte, NC. I attended various sessions on topics such as citizen engagement, conflict resolution, performance measurement and leadership. One of the highlights was a keynote session with historian and author Doris Kearns Goodwin, who discussed her latest book *The Bully Pulpit*, a history of the first decade of the Progressive Era in American history. The Council-Manager form of government was developed and first introduced during that period and this was ICMA's 100th Annual Conference. I would like to thank the Town Council members for your continued support of my professional development activities.

- New England Central Rail project – The US Department of Transportation has awarded a \$8.2 million TIGER grant for the NECR, to fund infrastructure improvements to upgrade the freight capacity of the line. This would be a first step towards restoring passenger service to the line, which is currently being studied by the MassDOT in collaboration with ConnDOT. Mansfield has long supported this initiative, as a means to enhance the movement of freight and public transportation in our region. Congressman Courtney, in consultation with other federal, state and local officials, advocated hard on behalf of the region to receive this important grant funding.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* - Work in Mansfield this week will include work on overhead lines in the vicinity of Hawthorne Lane, the installation of new transmission structures and performance of grounding work in the vicinity of Stafford Road and Highland Road, restoration in the vicinity of Bassetts Bridge Road in the Mansfield Hollow State Park to its pre-construction condition (including the removal of construction pads and access roads that are not needed for future maintenance of the lines), and the installation of foundations and new transmission structures in the vicinity of Rte. 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.
- *Storrs Center*
 - Celebrate Mansfield Festival – This past Sunday, we held the 11th annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival on the new Mansfield Town Square for the very first time. The event was a resounding success, featuring over 90 booths with food, children's games and crafts, a juried art show, cooking demos, the EO Smith petting zoo, and more. The Festival kicked off with the ever growing parade which included both the EO Smith and UConn marching bands. The E.O. Smith marching band started the music off with the Star Spangled Banner and were followed by Kidsville Kuckoo Revue and the Festival headliner Humming House. From my perspective, the Town Square proved a fabulous venue for holding this event and affirmed our vision for Storrs Center as the civic hub of the community. I would like to thank the dozens of volunteers who helped to staff the event, as well as Mayor Paterson, Cynthia van Zelm and Kathleen Paterson for their organizing skills – great job and kudos to all! Hold the date for the 12th annual Festival on September 20, 2015!
 - International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Session on Storrs Center – Tomorrow night I will join Mansfield Downtown Partnership Executive Director Cynthia van Zelm and other colleagues in a panel discussion sponsored by the ICSC's Connecticut chapter regarding public-private partnerships and Storrs Center in particular. This session should be an opportunity for both attendees and panelists alike to discuss best practices, opportunities and lessons learned.
 - Parking Garage operations – I am very pleased to report that for FY 2013/14, the Storrs Center parking garage yielded a net income of \$180,120.94 for the year. Of this amount, the Town received \$50,000 to cover the cost of the annual contribution to the repair & maintenance reserve account. The balance of \$130,120.94 is payable Storrs Center Alliance, which will contribute the entire amount to the Town as SCA's first contribution towards the parking garage overrun. As councilors will recall, we were concerned about incurring a deficit during the first few years of the garage operations. I would like to commend SCA, its operator Standard Parking and Town and Downtown Partnership staff for working together to run the facility in a profitable manner.
 - Square Fair - The Downtown Partnership will hold the final Square Fair of the season this Friday, September 26 from 5:00 - 9:00 PM on the Town Square.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – The Market is open every Saturday from May through Thanksgiving, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building. Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. In fact, the average distance from farm to market is just 12 miles! Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, September 23, 2014, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Human Services Advisory Committee, September 24, 2014, 3:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, October 1, 2014, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, October 2, 2014, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, October 2, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland-Wetlands Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, October 6, 2014, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, October 7, 2014, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, October 7, 2014, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, October 8, 2014, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, October 8, 2014, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, October 9, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, October 10, 2014, 8:10 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Responsible Contracting Committee, October 10, 2014, 9:00 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, October 14, 2014, 12:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, October 14, 2014, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, October 14, 2014, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, October 14, 2014, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, October 14, 2014, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, October 14, 2014, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*